

ITEM: 19

SUBJECT: Sacramento Rendering Companies, Rancho Cordova Rendering Plant,
Sacramento County

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Revised Waste Discharge Requirements and a New
Cease and Desist Order*

BACKGROUND: Sacramento Rendering Companies owns and operates a rendering plant in Rancho Cordova. Approximately 750,000 pounds of livestock carcasses, meat and poultry processing byproducts, and grease from restaurants and food service businesses are rendered each day. Wastewater generated by the rendering plant consists of moisture from animal by-products, water separated from grease, condensate from the cookers, contact water from the scrubbers, plant sanitation wastewater, water softener reject, boiler blowdown, and some storm water runoff. Daily wastewater flows are variable, ranging from 70,000 to over 100,000 gallons per day. The combined wastewater stream from all sources contains high concentrations of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total dissolved solids and nitrogen. Process wastewater is pre-treated to remove excess oil and grease, and is then discharged to the facility's unlined wastewater pond system, prior to irrigation on 74.8 acres of pastureland.

The Discharger has applied for updated waste discharge requirements to allow increased flows resulting from operational changes and new air emissions control equipment. Staff's analysis finds that designated waste is being discharged to the unlined ponds, that waste of excessive strength is being discharged to irrigated pasture, that groundwater appears impacted from past discharges, and that storm water runoff appears to contain waste components. Therefore, the companion Cease and Desist Order provides a timeline for numerous specific technical studies and facility improvements such that the Discharger will be in full compliance with water quality regulations by August 2009. In particular, the Discharger must either comply with Title 27 by constructing Class II surface impoundments and/or implement source control, treatment, and/or waste segregation measures such that discharges to the unlined ponds and land application areas complies with State Board Resolution No. 68-16 (the Anti-Degradation Policy).

ISSUES:

This item is uncontested.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed order.

Mgmt. Review _____
Legal Review _____

28/29 November 2005

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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